

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - NEW INTERIM AGREEMENT IN SINAI

1. SUMMARY. SEVERAL PAPERS -- INCLUDING LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR", LEADING PRO-EGYPTIAN "AL-ANWAR", AND PRO-SAUDI "AL-HAYAT" -- TAKE UP CALL FOR ARAB SUMMIT AS STEP TOWARDS ARAB SOLIDARITY IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT SADAT. LEADING LEFTIST PRO-PLO "AL-MUHARRIR" AGAIN LINKS ISRAELI RAIDS ON LEBANON TO SINAI ACCORD AND, ALONG WITH LEFTIST PRO-REJECTIONIST "AL-LIWA", SUPPORTS ESTABLISHMENT OF NORTHERN FRON PROPOSED BY PRESIDENT BAKR. LEFTIST PRO-NASSERITE "AS-SAFIR", PRO-IRAQI "BEIRUT", AND PRO-SOVIET "ASH-SHA'B" AGAIN ATTACK EGYPT, WHILE PRO-SOVIET "AN-NIDA" SEES SADAT'S SPEECH YESTERDAY AS SIGN OF ISOLATION. END SUMMARY.

2. EGYPTIAN AFFAIRS EXPERT FU'AD MATAR OF "AN-NAHAR" WRITES: "ARAB ATTITUDE IS NOW MOST IN NEED OF SUMMIT AT WHICH KINGS AND PRESIDENTS COULD SAY WHAT SHOULD BE SAID INSTEAD OF WHAT IS BEING SAID.... SUMMIT IS NECESSARY NOW BECAUSE ... WE MAY SUDDENLY REACH NEW REALITY: SETTLEMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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ARABS VS ANTI-SETTLEMENT ARABS, ARABS OF EGYPT VS ARABS OF

SYRIA AND PALESTINE.... SOME DESCRIPTIONS OF PRESIDENT SADAT AND EGYPT ARE UNFAIR TO MAN WHO MADE MOST FATEFUL DECISION IN HISTORY OF ARAB NATION AND TO MEN WHO SPILLED THEIR BLOOD ON SOIL OF SINAI AND IN WATERS OF SUEZ.... THESE SHOULD BE REPLACED WITH OTHER, MORE LOGICAL, DESCRIPTIONS."

3. COLUMNIST RAFIQ KHURI OF "AL-ANWAR" WRITES: "QUICK STEP REQUIRED NOW IS HOLDING OF ARAB SUMMIT TO PUT ALL FACTS AND VIEWS ON TABLE, TO AGREE TO UNIFIED ARAB POLICY.... WE ARE NOW FACING SERIOUS TEST.... ARAB BROTHERHOOD MUST TRIUMPH."

4. EDITORIAL DIRECTOR MUHAMMAD ANNAN OF "AL-HAYAT" WRITES: "REMARKS PRESIDENT SADAT MADE IN HIS SPEECH ARE THERE FOR ARAB CONSCIENCE TO EXPRESS ITS VIEWS ON DIRECTLY OR THROUGH ARAB SUMMIT.... FRANKNESS AND DIALOGUE ... CAN CLEAR THINGS UP AND RENDER VERDICT FOR OR AGAINST."

5. EDITORIAL DIRECTOR NAYIF SHUBLAQ OF "AL-MUHARRIR" WRITES: "WHEN ENEMY'S AUDACITY REACHES POINT OF ATTEMPTING LANDING IN SIDON, NOT JUST ON BORDERS, THIS PROVIDES MORE PROOF OF FACT ... THAT ISRAEL WILL BECOME MORE ARROGANT, MORE AUDACIOUS, MORE AGGRESSIVE AGAINST LEBANON AND PALESTINIAN PEOPLE NOW THAT DR. KISSINGER HAS GIVEN IT GREEN LIGHT.... CALL TO ESTABLISH NORTHERN FRONT, ORIGINALLY MADE BY PRESIDENT BAKR, IS TODAY MORE PRESSING THAN EVER BEFORE."

6. "AL-LIWA" WRITES: "TO CONFRONT CONSPIRACIES THAT WE HAVE NO DOUBT WILL ESCALATE FOLLOWING EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT, SYRIA SHOULD TAKE INITIATIVE .. AND ANNOUNCE ITS POSITIVE RESPONSE TO IRAQI CALL TO ESTABLISH NORTHERN FRONT. BY SO DOING, IT WOULD PROVE ... THAT IT WILL FIGHT SURRENDERIST SETTLEMENT."

7. "AS-SAFIR" WRITES: "IF ARAB NATIONALIST FORCES CAN UNIFY THEIR STRUGGLE, THEY CAN FOIL PARTIAL SETTLEMENT.... THIS IS NIGHTMARE THAT EGYPTIAN REGIME WOULD FIND DIFFICULT TO SUPPORT, AND IT WOULD HAVE TO EITHER COLLAPSE OR RETURN TO FIELD OF ARAB STRUGGLE."

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8. COLUMNIST ADNAN BADR OF "BEIRUT" WRITES: "IT HAS BECOME CLEAR TO ALL PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS AND ALL NATIONALIST FORCES ON ARAB SCENE THAT SETTLEMENT EMBODIED IN THIS SINAI ACCORD IS IMPERIALIST-ZIONIST-REACTIONARY SURRENDERIST SETTLEMENT, AND MOST OF THESE FORCES ... ARE CALLING FOR RESISTANCE TO THIS AGREEMENT."

9. PUBLISHER AND CHIEF EDITOR MUHAMMAD DUGHAN OF "ASH-SHA'B"
WRITES: "NO ARAB WHO LIVED IN NASSER'S ERA AND BELIEVED
IN HIS POLICY ... CAN ACCEPT CONCESSIONS THAT HAVE BEEN
MADE IN EGYPT, DEPRIVING EGYPT'S PEOPLE OF THEIR NATIONAL
WEAPON AND VISION AND OF THEIR ARAB AND ISLAMIC MESSAGE."

10. COLUMNIST SUHAYL TAWILA OF COMMUNIST PARTY ORGAN
"AN-NIDA" WRITES "WHAT DOES YESTERDAY'S TENSE SPEECH BY
EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT MEAN? IF SHOWS ABOVE ALL ELSE EXTENT
TO WHICH SADAT IS ISOLATED AS RESULT OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI
AGREEMENT AND AS RESULT OF FOLLOWING IN AMERICA'S FOOTSTEPS."
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